

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9058

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CZ

SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ASSIGNMENTS

1. MFA AND PRESS HAVE ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF JOZEF NALEPKA AS NEW DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NALEPKA, A SLOVAK, IS THE BROTHER OF A CELEBRATED WWII OFFICER WHO SERVED WITH THE GERMANS WHILE SECRETLY WORKING AGAINST THEM AND WAS ULTIMATELY EXECUTED. WE ASSUME THAT NALEPKA IS CLOSE TO FONMIN CHNOUPEK. (ON THIS POINT, WE HAVE HEARD THAT FORMER DEPUTY FONMIN RUZEK, REGARDED BY THE DIP CORPS AS EXTREMELY CAPABLE, IS BEING SENT AS CSSR REP IN GENEVA BECAUSE HE AND CHNOUPKE DID NOT GET ALONG.)

2. SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT NALEPKA WILL DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH MFA ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS.

3. FORMER AMB TO U.S. SPACIL, WHO HAS TAKEN OVER RUZEK'S DUTIES, HAS TOLD SOME COLLEAGUES THAT HIS APPOINTMENT IN RUZEK'S PLACE IS "TEMPORARY," BUT SOME MFA OFFICIALS HAVE ADDED THE COMMENT THAT PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENTS LIKE HIS SOMETIMES GO ON FOR FIVE YEARS.

4. THERE ARE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT CHNOUPEK HIMSELF WILL BE PROMOTED BY NEXT PARTY CONGRESS, AND LATEST RUMOR HAS

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IT HE WILL LEAVE MFA TO BECOME PARTY SECRETARY. WE DOUBT

THAT ANYONE KNOWS NOW WHERE CHNOUPEK'S CAREER WILL GO, BUT
IN THE MEANWHILE HE IS TO ALL APPEARANCES SHIFTING AROUND
HIS TOP LIEUTENANTS TO MAKE A MINISTRY MORE IN KEEPING WITH
HIS DESIRES.
PERRY

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